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GENERAL MENENDEZ' RETIREMENT ANNOUNCED

PY091619 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1524 GMT 9 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 (NA)--Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez' retirement was published in the military bulletin so that the army will know officially the decision reached by its commander in chief, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, regarding the uprising staged by that officer at the end of last month.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER DENIES 'UNEASE' WITHIN BRANCH

PY091112 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 5 Oct 79 p 2 PY

[Excerpt] Argentine Air Force Commander Maj Gen Omar Graffigna, categorically refuted reports about alleged unease among the officers of the Cordoba Air Force Garrison which he inspected yesterday. Graffigna had left for Cordoba at 0800 and visited the air force school, the school for noncommissioned officers, and the aeronautical engineering school. He returned at 2100 and made an exclusive statement to CLARIN at the military base of Jorge Newberry Airport.

The commander in chief of the air force indicated that these inspection tours are part of his work schedule for the second half of the year and that he had already visited the Parana Garrison and inspected the school for commanding and staff officers, which he visited for 3 and 1/2 hours on Wednesday.

With regard to the reports he said: "This is untrue and harmful. On the contrary, there is absolute solidarity between the air force and its commander in chief; all these reports are totally wrong." He added: "I categorically refute them because they are false. Besides, things like these, reports like these, are very harmful because they do not benefit the process and the branch even less. I repeat with the utmost indignation that this is completely false, there is no such thing, it is a lie. I have found absolute solidarity with the country, with the air force and, in fact, with its commander." He concluded by saying: "I do not want to discuss the subject because it is totally absurd; if you mentioned it to the officers who went with me on this trip they would laugh at you."

FOUR PRESIDENTS INVITED TO ATTEND REGIONAL FAIR

PY051343 Paris AFP in Spanish 0246 GMT 5 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Salta, Argentina, 4 Oct (AFP)--It was learned here today that the presidents of Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Argentina have been invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Argentine northern region international fair which will be held from 18 to 28 October. Furthermore, the fifth assembly of the Latin American Interregional Midwest Businessmen's Association (GEICOS) will also be held at the same time. The invitations, extended through the respective foreign ministries, were also given to the economic ministers of these countries. It was also disclosed that Alejandro Orfila, the OAS secretary general, has been invited. Moreover, it was noted that businessmen from southern Peru will attend the GEICOS assembly as observers.

PRESIDENT GUEVARA EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER U.S. TIN SALE

PY060011 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1922 GMT 5 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 5 Oct (LATIN)--Official sources reported today that Bolivia has expressed its concern over the U.S. Government delay in answering its protest against the announced international sale of 35,000 tons of tin. According to the same sources, President Walter Guevara Arze was visited by U.S. ambassador to Bolivia, Paul Boecker, with whom he discussed the subject.

After his meeting with the U.S. ambassador, President Guevara Arze stated that unfortunately there is no official reply.

ARGENTINA REQUESTED TO PAY HIGHER GAS PRICE

PY061638 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2334 GMT 5 Oct 7[illegible] PY

[Text] Bolivia has proposed to Argentina a 100-percent price increase for the natural gas it sells to that country. The Bolivian negotiating commission that went to Buenos Aires said that there is a good disposition on the part of the Argentine gas officials to reach a satisfactory agreement.

The commissions representing the two countries have adjourned their meetings and will continue their talks at the end of this month.

The request for a 100-percent increase was made because the price Argentina is now paying is not in line with the average price paid on the international market. A comparison was made, showing that Argentina is paying $1.54 per thousand cubic feet of gas, while the United States and Mexico have fixed a price of $3.30.

Bolivia is now selling an average of 150 million cubic feet per day and shortly there will be an increase of 20 million cubic feet.

EMBASSIES TO ASK FOR SECURITY GUARANTEES

PY051657 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 5 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 5 Oct (AFP)--It was reported here today that foreign ambassadors accredited to the Bolivian Government will request from the latter special security guarantees for their respective embassies.

This decision was taken by the diplomatic corps after attacks against the Egyptian and Israeli embassies in this city.

A bomb planted at the Israeli Embassy did not explode; the one at the Egyptian Embassy did, although without causing casualties or serious damage. A diplomatic source said that the two events were kept secret in order not to spread alarm, but they have caused "natural concern."

The ambassadors have been called to a meeting at noon today to draft the test of the request for guarantees; it will be addressed to President Walter Guevara Arze through the Bolivian Foreign Ministry.

FINAL DOCUMENT ON TALKS WITH SOVIETS 'WILL BE SECRET'

PY051838 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Oct 79 PY

[Text] The final document on the talks held by the Brazilian-Soviet Joint Commission, which concluded last Thursday in Brasilia, will be secret. The decision, made by Itamaraty, has caused surprise. It has been reported, however, that no agreements were reached between the two countries on the subjects discussed.

FIGUEIREDO ORDERS DRAFT OF PARTY LAW SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

PY090302 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Oct 79 PY

[Statement released to the press by Brazilian Social Communications Minister Said Farhat in Brasilia on 8 October--recorded]

[Text] At a meeting he held this afternoon, Justice Minister Petronio Portella submitted to the president of the republic the basic points of the amendments to the law on political parties which have become necessary by virtue of constitutional amendment No 11.

Complying with instructions from President Figueiredo, the justice minister will now draft a proposal to be presented to the president of the republic for submission to the National Congress next week.

The proposal will set up conditions for the creation, organization and functioning of political parties, which will be organized starting at the municipal level and going up to the state and national levels.

In view of these principles, the proposal will be based on the following guidelines:

First, the dissolution of the present parties; second, authorization to form coalitions in elections requiring majorities; third, authorization to use party labels in municipal elections; fourth, any political group should be called a party. Any party may use old labels at will. President Figueiredo once again confirmed his objective to attain a majority of deputies and senators within only one progovernment party. These decisions were made today concerning the party reformulation, which will be incorporated in a draft law.

NEW STUDENT LEADER OPPOSES FIGUEIREDO'S POLITICAL PLAN

PY100219 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Oct 79 p 9 PY

[Excerpt] Salvador--Rui Cesar Costa Silva, president-elect of the National Student Union [UNE], stated yesterday that the UNE will in no way participate in President Figueiredo political plan. He criticized "Those who, despite claiming to be in the opposition, have given credit to the dictatorship for its political plan." He also opposed the convocation of a constituent assembly under this administration.

The UNE president disagreed with the platform outlined by Senator Tancredo Neves, presidential candidate for 1984, but praised the steps taken by groups of the Brazilian Democratic Movement and union leaders toward the creation of the popular and workers' parties, respectively. He advocated "steps aimed at creating a well-defined political front of popular sectors to seek more profound changes in the Brazilian reality."

Costa Silva denied that his mining slate--called Mutirao--had received funds "from organizations mentioned by the communications media," that is, the PCB (the Brazilian Communist Party) and the APML (Marxist-Leninist Action). He made it clear that his slate "advocates broad freedom of expression by political parties and defends the legalization of all clandestine parties."

He stated that the presidential decree restricting participation by student organizations on the UNE board "will elicit a steadfast, decisive reaction from the students and from the people who effectively support us." He added: "Just as we overcame Decrees 477 and 228, creating free and independent organizations, we will keep UNE strong and representative.

BRIZOLA FAVORS LEGALIZATION OF COMMUNIST PARTY

PY100143 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Oct 79 p 2 PY

[Excerpt] Before boarding a plane to Mexico, former Governor Leonel Brizola said yesterday that the country's economic and social situation "is very similar to the situation prior to 1964, but has been worsened by 15 years of authoritarianism which adopted an economic model which concentrated wealth and adopted a savage capitalism." Although he does not include himself among "those who predict a catastrophe, Brizola said, regarding the observations made by Senator Tancredo Neves, that he would add that "the country is experiencing a climate of financial speculation which is causing much distress."

Referring to the possibility that President Figueiredo may call for a constituent assembly, Brizola said that it may be a solution. But he observed that the constituent assembly will only be possible after an effective reorganization of the political parties, permitting the legalization of the communist party, and carried out in "a climate of assurance and freedom through the elimination of restrictive and authoritarian laws such as the national security law and the falcao law."

GENERAL ABREU DEFENDS LEGALIZATION OF COMMUNIST PARTY

PY091148 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Gen Hugo Abreu, chief of the military household during the Geisel government, has delivered a lecture at the 11 August academic center. General Abreu defended the legalization of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], although in due time, without haste.

The general said that the process of political opening is irreversible and that it represents a victory of Brazilian public opinion. He also stressed the need to make concessions on both sides to correct the errors of the revolution.

ARENA PRESIDENT DENIES INTENTION TO ISOLATE RADICAL GROUPS

PY051258 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 Oct 79 PY

[Text] ARENA President Jose Sarney has denied that the central objective of the party reorganization program is simply to isolate the radical groups to prevent them from achieving power.

According to Sarney, the radical groups in Brazil are minority organizations which will never be in a position to achieve power through the electoral process. Thus, he said, the current reform aims at qualifying the different groups which are active in political life, giving them the appropriate conditions to organize themselves into parties.

CONTRERAS' LAWYER COMMENTS ON U.S. EXTRADITION STATEMENT

PY051730 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0312 GMT 5 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Sergio Miranda Carrington, Gen Manuel Contreras' lawyer, has noted that parts of the statement issued by the U.S. State Department on the Chilean court's decision to reject the extradition of three Chilean officers "are crude and improper for persons of a certain rank."

On the U.S. State Department communique which states: "The results of the deplorable court decision is that the three terrorists (referring to the officers) have been released and are now free on Chilean streets," Miranda said that "what is important to note is that the rules of the game concerning this extradition process were established by the U.S. Government when it submitted the request to the Chilean courts." He added: "It is immoral and improper for a person to criticize the court he has resorted to because that court has issued a decision contrary to his aspirations and to try to achieve his aspirations through other means." Miranda added that he "ignored the statement issued by the U.S. State Department" and that he was not upset by it. He noted: "We will not argue with them, because apparently that is what they want."

RELEASE OF 54 POLITICAL PRISONERS DEMANDED BY RELATIVES

PY100034 Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT 8 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, 8 Oct (AFP)--The group of relatives of Chilean political prisoners today called upon all humanitarian organizations to help obtain the release of their relatives.

In a communique released here, the group also requests that "the whereabouts of almost 1,000 missing Chileans be clarified and that those responsible for the death of many of them be punished." The note does not mention the number of detainees but demands "the release of all political prisoners who are still held in Chilean jails for having allegedly opposed the regime" headed by Gen Augusto Pinochet.

"We call upon all national and humanitarian organizations to support our just petitions," the communique adds.

Since 1975 the Chilean military government has gradually released political detainees who supported the deposed socialist regime of Salvador Allende (1970-1973) and issued an amnesty law 18 months ago. Sources of the group of relatives have reported, however, that 54 persons are still held in the penitentiary, public jail and women's correctional house of Santiago, on charges of engaging in activities the government regards as subversive.

PUBLISHER OF CLANDESTINE NEWSPAPER ARRESTED

PY091253 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0310 GMT 9 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Ulises Gomez Novarro, member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], alleged publisher of the extremist newspaper EL REBELDE and the perpetrator of several bombings, was arrested in a clash with security personnel which took place in La Florida County. Claudio Zamorano Nunez, another member of the banned movement, was captured as well. Sources of the National Information Center indicated that this new blow to the MIR would probably force its leaders, Andres Pascal Allende and Hernan Aguillo, to try to leave the country in view of the organization's collapse.

ATTACK ON COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN NICARAGUA CONFIRMED

PA092016 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian Government has expressed its surprise at the attack on its embassy in Managua Sunday evening and has asked the Nicaraguan Government junta (?to provide greater protection) for its embassy where 101 persons, including several Somozists, have sought asylum.

Colombian Charge d'Affaires in Managua Luis (Aristobulo) Vargas has confirmed that the embassy was attacked by several unidentified individuals riding in a camper. He said four shots hit the building and left marks on it but, fortunately, there were no casualties.

The official denied the refugees are facing a dire situation since the Colombian Government is providing them with (food). He also confirmed that several women and children have already received safe-conduct but refuse to leave the embassy until their (husbands) obtain documents.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Consul in Bogota Octavio Sanabria Centeno told this station today that several persons implicated in activities carried out by Anastasio Somoza's regime are among the refugees in the Colombian Embassy in Managua. These persons will have to respond to the new authorities for their actions. He reaffirmed, nonetheless, that the new Nicaraguan regime respects diplomatic privileges [fuero].

ILO MEETING IN MEDELLIN APPROVES RESOLUTIONS

PA050421 Paris AFP in Spanish 1850 GMT 4 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 4 Oct (AFP)--Six resolutions on trade union freedoms and rights were approved at the 11th regional conference of the International Labor Organization [ILO], which ended here today, AFP was told.

Other resolutions approved dealt with workers' education on developing and strengthening labor organizations, implementation in Latin America of the declaration of principles and the action program of the World Employment Conference, international labor norms in the countries of this hemisphere and ILO decentralization.

Another resolution referred to intelligence development as applied to labor and emmigrant workers in America.

Regarding trade union rights, once more the governments of all the American members of the ILO were urged to ratify and implement the agreement in this respect and to protect trade union rights. Governments, employers and workers' organizations of those countries were asked to make effective use of the control mechanisms established by the ILO and to cooperate with it.

On decentralization, it [was resolved that it] should be extended to all sectors of the ILO, particularly with regard to planning and technical cooperation.

In connection with emmigrant workers, there should be a policy aimed at meeting their basic social needs including, among other things:

1. Guaranteed employment, and access to different jobs and promotion.

2. Equal opportunities and wages according to the principle of equal pay for equal work.

3. Adequate housing for the worker and his family.

4. Education facilities for the workers' children and educational programs for the workers.

In order to increase the workers' capabilities in rural areas and in the cities, the ILO was asked to increase its support for these objectives. Another recommendation was that the ILO Administrative Council implement the necessary measures so that a general project can be drafted to develop intelligence. The first draft of this project was submitted by the Venezuelan delegation. The title of the project was changed at the request of the Andean Group countries, to "resolution on the development of intelligence as applied to the labor sector."

REPORTAGE ON CHURCH TAKEOVERS BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS

Finance Workers' Hunger Strike

PA081648 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1523 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 8 Oct (EFE)--A group of striking public employees staged a sit-in at Augustine Church, a few meters from Narino Palace where the presidency of the republic is located, and began a hunger strike today. The Finance Ministry workers (about 11,000) have been on strike for the past 52 days, demanding a 70-percent pay raise and a 100-percent increase in their social welfare benefits. Only about 100 employees went on the hunger strike. Alfredo Morales, president of the Finance Ministry's union, said he could not understand Minister Jaime Garcia Parra's refusal to solve the dispute.

"The government is indifferent to its workers' demands," he said. He added that they will not leave the church until the government meets their pay demands. He said the hunger strike will spread as time goes on.

Evacuation from Church

PA091501 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Police at about 0500 today evacuated the Finance Ministry strikers who had been occupying St Augustine Church. They transferred the hunger strikers to a police station and it is expected that their situation will be resolved within the next few hours. Police said they were acting on instructions from the metropolitan curia.

Church Takeover by Students

PA091506 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia--Some 102 Valle del Cauca University students, who 23 hours ago seized La Ermita Church, reiterated this morning they will not abandon their positions until the academic council accepts their demands.

A commission made up of Father Pedro Oliveros of La Ermita, Democratic Lawyers Association Chairman Aurelio Jimenez Callejas, education school Dean Miriam Zuniga, and biology and curriculum chief Alfonso Claret arrived at the church at about 2300 to speak with the students and seek a solution leading to their evacuation of the church.

The group spent more than 2 hours exchanging views. Aurelio Jimenez Callejas told newsmen later that the occupants of the church are demanding guarantees for themselves and those supporting their movement. They conditioned their evacuation of the church with the adoption of a number of academic measures and the solution of various problems affecting several Cali neighborhoods and neighboring municipalities in which low-income families reside.

Defense Ministry Communique

PA100333 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] National Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva tonight issued a communique instructing the armed forces commander in chief and the national police general director to abstain from ordering any action against persons occupying or seizing Catholic churches.

The communique also says that everyone is aware that it has lately become common practice to occupy Catholic churches in an attempt to exert various pressures. These actions, which are often encouraged by the priests themselves, the communique adds, are intended to attract public attention. It is obvious that the groups engaged in these acts are merely trying to cause unnecessary and harmful conflict between the Catholic Church and the armed forces.

Therefore, General Camacho Leyva feels the best thing to do in such cases is not to take any action against those persons, especially if they do not interfere with public order. He also says that only when church officials submit a written petition to the civilian authorities to take action against persons occupying the church, will the armed forces or police intervene.

General Camacho Leyva reached this decision after authorities proceeded this morning to evacuate 40 striking Finance Ministry employees who had seized the historic St Augustine Church.

BRIEFS

RECORD COFFEE EXPORTS--Bogota, 3 Oct (AFP)--Colombia sold a record 11.432 million bags of coffee on the international market during the 1978-1979 coffee year. The coffee year begins in September. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 3 Oct 79 PA]

FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY REPAIRS--Bogota--The government has authorized an additional 150 million pesos to the Public Works Ministry current budget for maintenance of highways in areas where winter has caused serious damage. Adolfo Biela Rubio, ministry operations director, said the funds will permit the repair of seriously damaged sections and thus guarantee the uninterrupted traffic flow on the country's main highways. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Oct 79 PA]

COMMUNIQUE ANSWERS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGES

PY061557 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 Oct 79 P 11 PY

[Text of communique released to the press by the Paraguayan Interior Ministry on 5 October 1979]

[Text] In view of assertions made by the organization, Amnesty International, according to reports published in national and foreign newpapers, the Interior Ministry releases the following information to the public:

It is absolutely untrue that Miguel Angel Soler, Derlis Villagra and Ruben Gonzalez Acosta have died in police offices in Paraguay. In the case of Soler, it can be asserted that he, the alleged secretary general of the Paraguayan Communist Party, has reportedly been living abroad for many years. According to the last report on him he lived in Montevideo, from where he went to the Soviet Union. Soler has never returned to Paraguay. This has been reported to the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission and to the United Nations.

Derlis Villagra Arzamendia was detained on 25 July 1965 and released on 7 November 1972. He left the country and has not returned.

Octavio Ruben Gonzalez Acosta is totally unknown to the security organizations of the state since he has never been arrested and there are no police records on him.

LAINO'S LAWYER REFUSED ACCESS TO HIS CLIENT

PY090227 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Oct 79 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] "I proved to myself once again today that Laino is not merely under confinement, but under arrest and, moreover, incommunicado because I was not allowed to see him." This remark was made last night by lawyer Miguel Abdon Saguier after returning from Mbuyapey where he was not permitted to talk with his client. A group of party colleagues was not allowed to see Laino either. Only Luis Guanes, his brother-in-law, was permitted to talk to Laino.

Lawyer Saguier then added: "I must say that Laino is under more restriction now since he is not even allowed to see his lawyer. This measure doubtlessly must have been ordered by the executive branch, although noncommissioned officer Ullda who stopped us only said that he had orders from above. This is really serious."

Saguier gave this account: "Ulloa told me 'you cannot talk with Laino, neither can the other persons.' When I asked Ulloa what was the matter, he replied 'I don't know anything. The order came from above. All that you can do is turn around and go back to Asuncion.'"

Saguier continued: "If I remember correctly, Foreign Minister Nogues said in Washington that Laino was free to talk with his lawyer, and acting Foreign Minister Montanaro said the same thing here. The government acts in a contradictory manner when it deals with political opponents--the authentic, not the puppet liberals. This is a serious violation of constitutional guarantees."

RADIO NETWORK IMPOSED DURING CANAL CEREMONIES PROTESTED

CONEP Letter to Justice Minister

PA091516 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Oct 79 PA

[Letter from the National Council of Private Enterprise to Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Adolfo Ahumada--date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] As we approached 1 October, when the process of dismantling the colonial enclave of the Canal Zone would begin, the National Council of Private Enterprise [CONEP] saw with deep concern how the country was torn by conflicts which a climate of intolerance threatened to make unsolvable, giving the world the spectacle of a country meeting its appointment with history amid division.

As you will recall, Mr Minister, we carried out a number of initiatives aimed at calming passions and getting the various conflicting factions to sit down and solve their disagreements with a calm, objective dialog. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful. The atmosphere was too filled with passions and the charges were exchanged by the adversaries with alarming regularity.

In respect for the truth, Mr Minister, we must note the government's share of responsibility for this unfortunate situation. During Pham Van Dong's visit, Mr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, in the name of the national government and over a national television network, harshly attacked all the sectors, groups and persons who, in his view, did not agree unconditionally with his viewpoint. At the same time, he glowingly praised the main figures of the People's Party, setting them up as paragons of all imaginable human and political virtues. Your Excellency, we are concerned that this could serve as a model for future official actions, as vast sectors of our community have interpreted it.

Independent of any other consideration, 1 October is one of the most important dates in national history. It is understandable that the government would try to surround it with the greatest solemnity. We are sure that a national radio and television network established through agreement with all interested parties and by Fiat and which would have been in effect on the eve of that great event and on 1 October would have been accepted willingly. But there was no justification for beginning the network so early and for extending it beyond what could be explained by reasons of state. The Panamanians justifiably interpreted this open-ended network as an attempt to muzzle public opinion. We do not understand why this network was placed at the service of a political sector which made abusive and sectarian use of it, destroying the repeated objective of linking the struggle waged by successive generations from 1903 to the present, a struggle which has written glorious pages in our history.

The results of all this are clear: deep resentment by all those affected, including the radio listeners; a worsening of the conflicts which divide us, precisely because we are unable to air them before public opinion; fear that this type of network will become a standard practice of the government to be used under any pretext; and the economic damage to the enterprises which were forced to enter the network at a time when the cooperation of private enterprise is being sought to overcome the very serious economic crisis.

We regret that we have had to speak so frankly, but the present hour being experienced by our fatherland is too serious for us to remain silent about this situation which is on the verge of leading us into a position which we could all lament.

Mr Minister, CONEP, as a representative of private enterprise and in fulfillment of its goals and objectives, cannot remain silent about its deep concern over these events, which represent a serious threat to freedom of enterprise.

Sincerely, National Council of Private Enterprise, Dominador Kaiser Bazan, President.

Court Rejects Stations' Appeal

PA050411 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Oct 79 pp 1-A, 16-B PA

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice, with Ramon Palacios Parrilla giving the opinion of the court, will not hear a constitutional guarantee appeal filed on behalf of Alberto Quiros Guardia, Miguel Antonio Bernal, Julio Ortega and Luis Pimentel against an order of the Ministry of Government and Justice, through the social communications media office, for the nation's radio stations to join a national network which began on 27 September. This network, which went into effect on the morning of 27 September, continued until 3 October. The four petitioners, represented by 18 lawyers, considered that this order violated the guarantees established in Articles 13, 36 and 39 of the national constitution.

Before making a pronouncement on the admissibility of the appeal, the Supreme Court noted that Article 228 points out that concessions for the exploitation of communications media "will be based on social well-being and the public interest." The court held that the order "stemmed from a clear state of emergency in which the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Panama were involved and in which any tendentious or false public information could unleash irreparable tragedy. Therefore, the government, representing the state, not only has the right but the duty to establish stringent controls over the use and management of communications media."

The court pointed out that according to Article 44 of the constitution, proprietorship fulfills a social function and therefore private proprietors can neither abuse their rights nor stop the state from exercising its rights.

ACTING CANAL AUTHORITY DIRECTOR RESIGNS

PA051845 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Dr Eduardo Tejeira submitted his resignation as acting general director of the Canal Authority yesterday. His reasons were strictly personal. As of noon, the executive branch had not acted on Tejeira's resignation. A source close to the presidential palace said no information on the matter had been disclosed. However, political circles have cited several possible replacements for Dr Tejeira including Acting Assistant General Director Tomas Paredes, presidential adviser Eligio Salas, Hydraulic Resources and Electrification Institute General Director Edwin Fabrega and Colon Free Zone General Manager Jose Rey Montenegro. The first Canal Authority general director, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, resigned in April.

CANAL COMMISSION ADMINISTRATORS VISIT CANAL OFFICES

PA062158 Panama City Circutio RPC Television in Spanish 1745 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpt] Gen Dennis McAuliffe, administrator of the Canal Commission, and Fernando Mandredo, deputy administrator, have been visiting various offices and departments of the canal area since Thursday to become familiar with personnel and activities carried out in the area.

At the end of his visit to the Gamboa dredging department yesterday, Manfredo said he was very impressed with the way canal activities since the turbulent period before the treaty was signed had not slackned thanks to the efforts of the workers in the canal area. Referring to the condition of the equipment and installations which have reverted to Panama, Manfredo indicated that the equipment has received outstanding maintenance and though it is old it is in working condition.

TEACHERS' STRIKE, MARCH ELICIT VARIED RESPONSES

Chamber of Commerce Communique

PA070236 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Communique issued by the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama on 5 October--read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the government's official reply to the teachers' demands, the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama believes it has the unavoidable duty to state the following:

1. For more than 1 year our organization has been questioning the educational reform due to its harmful indoctrination of Panamanian children and youth.

2. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Republic recently demanded the immediate suspension of implementation of the educational reform for this reason.

3. In view of the government's rejection of the basic demands of the teachers, they declared an indefinite strike.

4. In view of the teachers strike, the national government arbitrarily ordered the suspension of payment of salaries to all teachers, creating a precarious situation for these public employees and a climate of great tension among the people.

5. In view of the seriousness of the problem, the nation's doctors issued an in-depth statement on the educational reform and declared an indefinite strike.

6. The support given to the teachers by broad sectors of the country is an evident demonstration of the loss of credibility of the national government's plans to find immediate and satisfactory solutions to the education problem.

7. The teachers and doctors have issued a national call for a civic march on 9 October at 1500.

Therefore, the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama, composed of merchants, industrialists, businessmen, investors and professionals, and as parents concerned over the future of national education, has decided to urge its members and all production sectors of the country to take necessary measures so that they and their workers--without affecting their wages--can participate as parents in the civic march for the rescue of national education.

[Signed] The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama.

Labor Unions in Disagreement

PA090201 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpt] The commission to study university and national problems has decided to support the teachers in their just struggle for salary increases and in their search for a healthy educational system that will truly respond to the interests of Panama and has requested a complete study of educational reform.

The commission has urged the parties involved to work toward a quick and satisfactory solution that should bring an atmosphere of peace and calm.

The country's labor unions have also split on the issue of the teachers' strike. While the Isthmian Workers Central voiced its support for the teachers on Saturday, the Federation of Trade Union Workers today opposed tomorrow's march. In a communique, the federation said doctors and the Chamber of Commerce have voiced their so-called support for teachers but have other goals. The federation has asked the government to enforce Article 84 of the constitution and halt the dangerous agitation, induced by news programs, evidently referring to radio stations with political programs.

FSTRP Expresses Opposition

PA070311 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Among the sectors supporting the government, the Union of Commerce Workers has expressed its rejection of the 9 October march. The Trade Union Federation of Workers of the Republic of Panama [FSTRP] has issued a lengthy communique in which it reiterates its total repudiation of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama, which it describes as the mastermind of infamous Law No 95. The FSTRP charges that the chamber now is trying to appear as defender of the teachers' interests while at the same time its members haggled over wage increases for the typographers who had to go on a 10-day strike to obtain their demands. The FSTRP also denounces certain doctors' associations for treating patients in private clinics while they go on strike in public hospitals. It also warns that its slogan is "a closed firm is an occupied firm."

That communique is signed by the Union of Commerce Workers, the Union of Typographers, The Union of Workers of the Leather Industry and Related Activities, the Union of Book and Magazine Distributors, the Union of Workers of Import and Export Companies of Electrical Appliances, the Union of Workers of the Shellfish Products Industry and the Union of Workers of the Riba Smith Company.

Liberal Party Support

PA090423 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 8 Oct 79 PA

[Panamanian Liberal Party communique--no date given; read by announcer]

[Text] The Liberal Party, authentic spokesman of Panamanian liberalism, in view of the events which have taken place in our country during the past weeks and in accordance with liberalism's democratic, just and libertarian principles, feels dutybound to speak to the country in view of the serious educational situation confronting the nation.

We must explain that, in spite of the seriousness of the existing crisis, we reject the desperate actions by other organizations who are attempting to incite chaos and violence. Democracy holds other solutions as we have repeatedly expressed in our statements and actions. We must remember at all times that Panamanian liberalism has had among its most permanent concerns those dealing with the development of national education in its various aspects. It would require a great deal of time to name the many teachers who have been and are still within our ranks as well as to note the fact that the organic education law is the result of our efforts. We see with growing concern that new educational programs are being implemented. These plans, in spite of the secret manner in which they have been approved and implemented, are known by all to be an attempt to destroy the personality of the student and turn him into a docile puppet of the regime. This possibility cannot be accepted by the Liberal Party, whose most important traditions include respect for man's integrity, his complete independence and his rights to choose his destiny with equal opportunities for all.

We have also seen the massive, spontaneous and opportune support which the country's forces, including the Catholic Church, have given the just aspirations of the teachers. It would be absurd to think that these great national majorities could be mistaken. Therefore, the Liberal Party urges all its members and sympathizers and the people to participate in the march to rescue national education. A demonstration will be held tomorrow in each of the various provinces of the republic to reaffirm our permanent solidarity with the just aspirations of the teachers.

The Liberal Party communique is signed by the party's political commission, which is comprised of Armulfo Escalona Rios, president; Joaquin F. Franco Jr, first vice president; Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, second vice president; Julio C. Harris, secretary general; Carlos Orillac Navarro, treasurer; and Rafael Fernandez Lara, correspondence secretary.

Panamenist Party Urges Participation

PA081819 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Oct 79 p 1 PA

[Communique issued by Panamenist Party National Directorate--date not given]

[Text] The Panamenist Party is always in the vanguard of any movement of the Panamanian people to recover their true freedom and to return to real democracy. Because they have shown great sacrifice in defense of the integrity of our nationality, the national movement of teachers and professors against the government's educational reform has won the mass support of the great national majorities because it represents the desperate cry of a great general repudiation of the dictatorship's oppressive measures and actions. The country's current economic, moral and spiritual disaster is the result of 11 years of betrayal of the fatherland and of criminal misgovernment by a shameless and ludicrous tyrant. In view of the country's chaotic situation, the National Directorate of the Panamenist Party issues a fervent plea to all our members throughout the country to enthusiastically participate and support the march for the rescue of national education to be held on 9 October in each province of the republic. In this patriotic crusade for the rescue of national dignity we are struggling for the future of all Panamanians and the solidarity of all the country's citizens with the teachers. The watchword, without wavering, is to courageously and decidedly participate to achieve the country's salvation. [Signed] The National Directorate of the Panamenist Party.

Marchers Remain Calm

PA100450 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpts] The demonstration left the Republic of Venezuela School and went through Central Avenue. In truth, it would be very difficult for me to estimate the exact number of people who participated in the march, although I can say that my personal opinion is that the number exceeded 200,000 people. The teachers and professors, who were accompanied by various associated groups of doctors, nurses, taxi drivers and other workers' unions, marched through Calidonia along Central Avenue chanting songs related to the demands they have made to the government. During the march, the demonstrators remained calm and groups near the teachers union held hands to form a cordon to prevent people outside the movement from infiltrating the march and vandalizing private property. [recording of chants and slogans by marchers]

During the march staged this afternoon, no regrettable incidents marred the demonstration. However, it is worth noting that on reaching Santa Ana exactly in front of La Pollera Building, some individuals were caught trying to break one of the shopwindows. These individuals were surprised by photographer Aristides Bravo, who managed to take some photographs.

These individuals attacked Mr Bravo and threw some noise bombs [petardo explosivo] seeking, in our opinion, to create chaos and disorder to commit their misdeeds more easily. We vehemently condemn the attack suffered by our colleague Bravo and ask police authorities to impose the most severe punishment on those persons responsible if they are arrested. After order was restored in the vicinity of Santa Ana and photographer Aristides Bravo's attackers were pursued by teachers who were trying to prevent further criminal actions, the teachers march continued amid the same order which had prevailed since it left the teachers headquarters on Justo Arosemena Avenue.

Teachers' Leader Speaks

PA100243 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Speech by Julio Cesar Ortiz, secretary general of the Panamanian Teachers Association, at "march of dignity" rally at Independence Plaza, Panama City, on 9 October--recorded]

[Text] Just as the present government lies and deceives the people, we will tell the truth and fight now or never for national freedom and dignity. [applause] Mr Minister of Education, Mr President of the Republic, we have no beer, we have no liquor, we only have a people who strive honorably. [applause] When the popular will is fully expressed, when the will of the people supports our just demands, when this will unconditionally supports all our demands, then and only then will triumph become real and effective, because power based on bayonets cannot halt the final triumph of the Panamanian people. [applause] Therefore, people of my country, by logical inference it is no longer incorrect to say that now or never is a current expression which represents fundamental precepts such as directly electing a president of the republic, a legislative chamber and a municipal government. [crowd begins shouting] Now or never means respect for the organic [organica] education law. Now or never becomes real and effective when we return to traditional educational programs in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades, as was applied to past generations which studied in the national institute, the crafts school and high schools. [applause]

Fellow teachers, now or never means free competition for all teaching positions. [shouting] Now or never, Panamanians, means ending all political gangs and political committees in the Education Ministry. It means fighting hard to attain our goals and rescue the organic education law. Now or never cannot remain a slogan on banners or t-shirts. We must implement it to put an end to this corrupt regime. [applause] Now or never does not mean better days for future generations. Now or never means better days now for the Panamanian people besieged by hunger and an educational system that is smothering our national culture. [applause] Now or never, people of Panama, means immediately changing all structures that undermine the Panamanian people. People of Panama, you must decide when now or never will begin. [applause]

FRAMPO Calls March 'Perfectly Natural'

PA092355 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Dr Renato Pereira, secretary general of the Popular Broad Front [FRAMPO], said today that his party views this afternoon's demonstration as perfectly natural. Dr Pereira said that the hysterical fear present in official sectors is totally unjustified. He said that these sectors will have to get used to demonstrations by political parties. Pereira said that the desires of the political community should always be manifested within the framework of prudence and respect for other parties and for the leaders of those parties, as well as for opposing ideas. Pereira said that the FRAMPO hopes that democracy and the right of Panamanians to express their ideas and aspirations without fear or threats from any sector will be honored during this afternoon's demonstration.

The FRAMPO secretary general said that thousands of members of education and other associations who are members and sympathizers of the FRAMPO will participate in the demonstration supporting the teachers. This does not mean, he said, that those demonstrators have coupist intentions, because they are democrats by conviction and respect constitutional order.

Warning of 'Seditious Movement'

PA091916 Panama City Radio Musical in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[From "Pisando Callos": telephone statement by Alvaro Menendez Franco--live]

[Excerpts] Once again I address the Panamanian people to warn them that there is a seditious movement that wants to use the just economic and educational demands of the Panamanian people. Yesterday afternoon, a U.S. press agency dispatch by Panama correspondent Don Bohning was aired. In this analysis, Bohning reports that he interviewed opposition leaders and they gave the president of the republic a deadline of this afternoon. This dispatch has not been published in Panama. They say that by using the teachers movement they are going to remove Dr Aristides Royo from the palace. Since this report has not been published in Panama, the duty of the peoples's leaders is to warn the teachers. The aware people of Panama should be warned that they are being called on to support a popular demonstration, a just movement for higher wages and a suspension of educational reform, but that there are other forces telling the world that today they will overthrow the revolutionary government.

The education leaders must tell the leaders of the oligarchy that if they want blood they should go to the forefront and die first. If they want to take the presidential palace, they should stake their lives and fight the government, because the exploiters of the masses cannot return on the basis of the blood and tears of the Panamanian people.

Popular Education Movement Formed

PA091739 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Oct 79 p 8 PA

[Text] A movement for popular education, composed of citizens aware of the national situation, yesterday established their general headquarters at the Pedro J. Sosa School in Calidonia. The movement opposes the sectarian sellout position of the teachers' pseudo-leaders, who have confused the noble interests of the honest sectors of teachers with the selfish interests of the pro-imperialists local oligarchy.

In a communique issued yesterday to explain its views on the country's situation, the movement asks all those who want their children's prompt return to school so they will not lose the school year, the abrogation of Law 95, which is an old aspiration of the country's working classes, and elimination of subsidies to private enterprises to go to the Pedro J. Sosa School in the Corregimiento of Calidonia, which is the headquarters of the movement. It adds that the movement is the expression of popular sectors against the direction the teachers movement has taken. A committee for popular education must be organized in each neighborhood, corregimiento, community, street and sector as the only alternative against sedition, infiltration and the coupist campaign planned to halt the deepening of the national liberation process. All aware workers, peasants, professionals, teachers, parents and students who also support the reduction of rents, a freeze on prices of staples products and a nationwide wage policy that will permit improvement of the wages of the lowest paid sectors should go to the Pedro J. Sosa School, the communique adds.

COSTA RICA

HABEAS CORPUS FILED IN FAVOR OF COLOMBIAN GUERRILLAS

PA071423 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Text] A writ of habeas corpus has been filed in favor of several Colombian guerrillas. Luis Alberto (Hine) Martinez has filed a writ of habeas corpus at the Supreme Court in favor of Brothers Jorge Ramon, Jose Fabio and Jose Fabio Monge [names as heard]. Who are under arrest in Costa Rica . They had earlier sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Bogota. They were sought by Colombian authorities for being members of the M-19 guerrilla organization.

The Foreign Ministry said that the Colombian guerrillas have diplomatic asylum but that they will not be granted territorial asylum (Hine) Martinez said that the arrest of the Colombians is illegal and injurious.

Guerrillas Seek Cuban Asylum

PA071424 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Colombian Brothers Jose Gabriel, Ramon Rabio and Jorge Armando Monge Benavides told our newsmen today that if Cuba does not grant them political asylum, they will request it from Costa Rica where they would work as any other citizen since they are technicians in various fields.

The M-19 members said that on leaving the Costa Rican Embassy in Colombia they had planned to go to Nicaragua to help in the reconstruction, but because of political problems they were denied this objective. They are now waiting for their situation to be defined regarding the asylum which Cuba could grant them. They should hear about this by Tuesday at the latest. We do not want to go to countries such as Mexico; we want to go to countries which need us. Above all, we want to protect our integrity, they said.

The four [as heard] Colombians who, for personal security reasons, are at the general detention center said that they are asking Amnesty International to study the situation in Colombia. We have concrete evidence of torture of political prisoners and other cases of political persecution. We know where tortured citizens can be found, the Colombians added. They also thanked the Costa Rican Government for the good treatment they have received while they were in asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT APPEALS TO PARENTS TO CONTROL STUDENTS

PA061313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0345 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero repeated today, Friday, his appeal to the parents to exert more control over their children to keep them from being used to subvert law and order in the country.

During recent months, primary, high school and university students have participated in street demonstrations which have caused extensive material damage. These demonstrations were repeated today in San Salvador and in other cities throughout the country.

The president said that one of the strategies used by subversive leaders is to mobilize youths and children as "bait," cowardly pitting them against security corps.

His first appeal to parents was made on 7 September, 1 day after the extreme left killed his brother Jose Javier Romero Mena. On this occasion President Romero asked extremist leaders to think about the damage done to the country by the violence they promote. He said that youths play the role of "useful fools" while the leaders stay safely at home. He said that the El Salvador University is a sanctuary of subversion and said that the army is alert in defense of the democratic system.

President Romero said [words indistinct] placards are painted, leaflets are printed and terrorist structures built to provoke the government.

Regarding recent terrorist attacks against the security corps garrisons in various parts of the country, the chief of the executive said that the government would not reply to these provocations. He asked correspondents of international news agencies to report the truth. "I do not ask them to ignore facts. I only ask them to say the truth," he emphasized.

He noted that the country is not engaged in a civil war but that a discontented sector, which does not understand that ideas are fought with ideas, is trying to provoke authorities.

In conclusion, he said that little by little and "with God's aid" the problem will be solved. He thanked the people for the thousands of daily messages asking him to maintain peace in the country.

GUATEMALA

STRONG QUAKE KILLS THREE IN SOUTHEASTERN REGION

PA092108 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1957 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--A violent earthquake registering 7 on the Mercalli scale shook southeastern Guatemala today leaving three dead.

The Guatemalan emergency committee said this afternoon that residents of Santa Rosa and Jutiapa provinces were saved from certain death when many houses collapsed because they had been sleeping outdoors for the past few days, having been alarmed by a series of minor earthquakes.

As a result of the earthquake, which occurred early this morning, two peasants and one laborer were killed when they were buried by rubble. In addition, many people have been injured although rescue brigades sent to the area have not yet determined their number.

The government has issued a communique on this morning's earthquake, confirming that it registered 7 on the Mercalli scale. According to the national observatory, the earthquake occurred at 0149 and 35 seconds, while residents of southeastern Guatemala were asleep. The official report adds that in the capital the tremor registered 5 on the Mercalli scale and lasted 35 seconds. The epicenter was located in Santa Rosa Department, 70 km southeast of the Guatemalan capital.

This was the 57th tremor to be felt in Guatemala this year and the strongest since the 4 February 1976 earthquake which destroyed a large portion of the country, leaving 30,000 dead and 1 million homeless.

NICARAGUA

COLOMBIAN, SPANISH EMBASSIES HIT BY GUNFIRE

Somozist Refugees Inside

PA091436 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian Embassy in Managua has been machinegunned by Sandinist militiamen who are besieging the building because of the 150 Somozist refugees inside. Women and children are among these refugees.

A Colombian engineer in Managua has made this dramatic disclosure, adding that there is no bread or water in the embassy and that the refugees are on the verge of starvation.

Colombian diplomatic officials have asked our government to do something to resolve this serious situation.

Envoys Comment

PA100310 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0057 GMT 10 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The Spanish and Colombian embassies reported to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry that they have been fired upon by unidentified individuals during the past few hours.

Spanish Ambassador Pedro Manuel Aristegui y Petit told ACAN-EFE that as a result of gunfire "usually" heard in Las Colinas residential district where the embassy is located, a shot from a high-powered weapon pierced the front door and entered the waiting room. The incident occurred Monday night and did not endanger the lives of any embassy officials or employees.

Meanwhile, Luis Vargas, Colombian charge d'affaires in Managua, informed th[illegible] agency that last Sunday night a burst of machinegun fire from a passing vehicle hit one of the four residences where Somozist refugees are housed. The residence is located in Villa Fontana, in the southern part of the capital. The shots hit doors and windows, endangering the lives of several refugees.

The Colombian Embassy has given refuge to 101 civilians and former military personnel who served the Somozist regime.

Vargas said that at the same time he reported the incident to the Foreign Ministry, he requested protection for the residences housing the refugees and repeated the request to obtain safe-conducts for them.

D'ESCOTO EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER U.S. 'SHOW OF FORCE'

PA100137 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 10 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Oct (AFP)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto today officially expressed concern over U.S. naval maneuvers in the Caribbean and the landing of Marines at Guantanamo Base in Cuba.

The victory of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua could possibly have influenced Washington's decision to make a show of force in the region, D'Escoto said during a news conference.

The foreign minister mentioned meetings which he held recently in Washington with U.S. officials who told him that the loss of Nicaragua could have influenced the Carter government's decision to denounce the presence of a Soviet brigade in Cuba, of which it was already aware.

In this manner, D'Escoto said, Carter is trying to placate the most conservative elements in the United States.

D'Escoto added that it is clear that the United States has always considered the Caribbean to be its own sphere, where its influence should remain intact. However, the United States does not realize, he added, that we do not belong to anyone and control our own destiny.

D'Escoto announced that in early November Nicaragua and the USSR will exchange notes establishing their respective diplomatic representations at embassy level. The first Soviet ambassador is expected to arrive in Managua in mid-November.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister concluded by saying that the maturity and good sense of Sandinist leaders have allowed the Nicaraguan revolution to advance greatly and that it will soon become the most important democracy on the American Continent.

BARRICADA COMMENTS ON U.S. CARIBBEAN BUILDUP

PA081745 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Oct 79 p 3 PA

[Editorial: "Halt to Imperialist Maneuvers"--capitalized passages are as published]

[Text] U.S. President James Carter's decision to build up U.S. military forces in the Caribbean, Central America and the hemisphere in general is very serious.

Carter is using the pretext of an alleged "discovery" of Soviet military advisers in Cuba. But he also admitted that their presence was detected almost 20 years ago. Therefore, it is clear that the pretext is just that--a pretext.

We must ask ourselves what are the real reasons behind President Carter's decision. No doubt the victory of the Nicaraguan liberation war and the outset of a revolutionary process that will achieve our country's independence, as well as the Panamanian people's victory in their struggle to regain sovereignty over the Canal Zone have deeply changed the picture of dependence imposed on Central America by imperialism.

These are the real reasons for Carter's concern.

The most reactionary U.S. groups cannot even think of a process of openness, democratization, independence and sovereignty in Latin America, let alone the revolutionary belief of our peoples and the possibility that this belief is a dawn for Latin Americans.

The apparent "reply to Cuba" is in the end A SPECIFIC THREAT TO THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

Carter has once again bared the great contradiction between his words and the facts, between his remarks and deeds, between overtures and threats. In the name of peace he endangers peace; in the name of freedom he offers support for the hemispheric dictatorships which deprive their peoples of freedom.

U.S. history is a history of interminable pretexts to hide aggression, expansion and the defense of imperialist interests at all costs. In this case, without a shadow of a doubt, a new chapter of that same history is being written.

On the contrary, the history of our nations has been and still is the history of peoples fighting for their liberation. Nothing will stop that struggle. No threat will make us renounce our independence. As to danger, we find the strength of unity and revolutionary determination. As to imperialism, we will keep the banners of our sovereignty high as before and we will always be ready to fight, following Sandino's anti-imperialist example.

A halt to imperialist aggression, death to counterrevolution!

GOVERNMENT BEGINS APPOINTING AMBASSADORS

PA100045 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 3 Oct 79 p 6 PA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Office has announced that the Government of National Reconstruction has appointed some 20 ambassadors to friendly countries that maintain commercial and diplomatic relations with us.

The following is a list of ambassadors who have been appointed: Dr Alejandro Serrano, ambassador to France and Italy and UNESCO and ILO representative, whose seat is in Geneva, Switzerland; Gullermo Genie, ambassador to Libya; Commander Ricardo Wheelock, ambassador to Honduras; Dr Victor Hugo Tinoco, ambassador to the United Nations; Alvaro Robelo, who may become ambassador to the Vatican; Prof Edelberto Torres, ambassador to Costa Rica; Francisco Quinonez Reyes, ambassador to El Salvador; Jose Pasos M., ambassador to Panama; Dr Gonzalo Ramirez Morales, ambassador to Venezuela; Carlos Rojas Ubeda, ambassador to Cuba; Dr Rafael Solis Cerda, ambassador to Washington; Alejandro Bermudez Alegria, ambassador to Peru; and several others.

In countries such as Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Japan, England and several others, Somozist ambassadors still hold their posts but will soon be replaced by revolutionary government ambassadors. At present, there is no money to maintain these embassies or pay the salaries of the new ambassadors.

Twenty-three countries, which have traditionally maintained diplomatic and commercial relations with Nicaragua, have already accredited their ambassadors to this country. The list of these countries includes: Cuba, the FRG, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, China, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, the United States, Mexico, France, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela, among others.

Nicaragua's policy of establishing economic and commercial relations with other nations has been fruitful. Establishing relations with socialist countries such as the GDR--which has sent us more aid than the United States--shows there are other governments aware of Nicaragua's situation. After establishing diplomatic relations with us for the first time, these countries have begun sending aid.

After being economically, physically and structurally destroyed, our country needs the aid of all nations that voluntarily wish to maintain relations aimed at assisting our fatherland's positive process of reconstruction.

ARMY CHIEF WARNS AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACKS

PA100358 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2301 GMT 9 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 5 Oct [as received] (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Army Commander in Chief Humberto Ortega warned today that Nicaragua will repel any external attack launched against its territory.

After admitting that the possibility of desperate actions by Somozists has not been discarded, and these could include armed attacks from abroad, he said that the Nicaraguan people will crush these operations before they are hatched.

Although he did not mention the word "attack" at any time, his words suggested that the Nicaraguan Army would crush Somozists even beyond the national boundaries.

In a news conference held today, the Sandinist army commander said that neighboring countries have been informed of the Nicaraguan fears of activities by Sandinist [as received] groups in territories near the Nicaraguan border. When asked if the Sandinist army had obtained modern weapons, Ortega said the Sandinist armed forces are becoming stronger and that new weapons will soon be seen in the streets, in the hands of soldiers.

One of the most extended rumors in Managua mentions a possible armed invasion from Honduras and El Salvador by Somozist troops commanded by Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero or by Pablo Emilio Salazar, a Somozist officer known as "Commander Bravo." Bravo fought well against Sandinists in southern Nicaragua near the Costa Rican border and at times defeated the Sandinists with his surprise tactics and rapid movements.

Eden Pastora, the well-known "Commander Zero," who was present at the news conference, said that Commander Bravo fled like a coward and deserted his troops on the southern front. Therefore, it is not likely that he has the support of the Somozists.

"Bravo does not have moral authority for anything. I do not believe that a single soldier believes in Bravo's courage," Pastora said. In August 1978, Pastora commanded the most spectacular action in the struggle against Somoza--the attack on Managua's national palace.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge reasserted the intention of training and arming 300,000 militiamen. This would give Nicaragua one of the most powerful armies in Latin America. Borge, believed to be one of the most powerful Sandinist leaders, said tht these 300,000 militiamen will receive military training at least once a week and would be used primarily to guard important installations and for patrol duty. However, he said if the need arose, they would take up arms to defend the country from an attack.

Humberto Ortega said that Nicaragua has the atomic bomb and that this bomb is "the union of the army and the people." Finally, he said that the union between the army and the people was demonstrated during the fight against Somoza and that it is the key to strength, even more than weapons.

SANDINIST ARMY CONDUCTS WEAPONS RECOVERY OPERATION

PA082246 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1833 GMT 8 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 8 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--A Sandinist People's Army (EPS) spokesman has reported that a military operation carried out last weekend to recover weapons in the hands of persons not in the army and to "halt the counterrevolution" has been a "complete success."

Sandinist commandos blocked the main streets in Managua, conducted a thorough search of all vehicles and searched the homes of persons who had been accused of hiding weapons or harboring counterrevolutionaries.

The EPS General Staff had previously issued a communique urging all persons who had weapons to deposit them at the David y Rene Tejada Military Academy in Managua.

EPS Spokesman Roberto Sanchez informed ACAN-EFE today that an inventory of the seized weapons and equipment had not been made and that those individuals arrested during the operation are being investigated.

EPS Commander in Chief Ortega Saavedra has called a news conference for tomorrow to report on the operation.

TOMAS BORGE ON EFFORTS TO DISARM CIVILIANS

PA071840 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2034 GMT 6 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 6 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez said here yesterday that the army's efforts to disarm civilians "will continue as long as it is necessary." The commander of the revolution said that, as part of the operation, some people have been arrested in order that they can be investigated.

It was also reported that some labor leaders--even leaders of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party--have been arrested because it has been confirmed that they were informers for the Somoza regime's national security office. The investigation has been made easier because the previous administration left that office's archives "intact." Domingo Vargas, a veteran Socialist Labor leader, is among the arrested for their ties to the previous regime's security apparatus.

Commander Borge remarked that Anastasio Somoza did not show the least consideration toward his regime's informers by leaving behind all the reports that have permitted the investigation.

This capital is still the scene of the big military operation to recover weapons, disarm civilians and search for military materiel.

It has also been learned that many people are hiding materiel such as dynamite sticks and fragmentary grenades in poor conditions in their homes. This threatens the lives of many people.

Today's issue of LA PRENSA in this capital explains the operation which it calls "orderly and impressive." The paper adds that the operation stems from the people's demands: They even demonstrated, urging that drastic measures be taken against those who have tried to promote counterrevolution and possess weapons, materiel and military equipment illegally.

An entire page of photographs shows the result of raids, vehicle searches and the military deployment begun on Thursday evening.

Army spokesmen have also noted that the military mobilization is part of the Sandinist People's Army's normalization process.

It was learned today that official details on the operation will be disclosed on Monday at the Army General Commander's Office at El Chipote, Somoza's former bunker.

TOMAS BORGE COMMENTS ON ACTIONS OF ULTRALEFT

PA040251 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Sep 79 pp 1, 10 PA

[By Ricardo Trejos Maldonado]

[Excerpts] Speaking about the aspirations of certain groups, Tomas Borge, commander of the revolution and interior minister, said those groups had invited Cmdr Eden Pastora [to join them], but this had enraged him.

Cdmr Borge said the ultraright and the ultraleft understand each other. He added that there are honest bourgeois and honest ultraleftists, but there are also traitorous bourgeois and Trotskiyites and Maoists who are working with the CIA.

He described the inconsistent ultraleftists as idiots. "It is political idiocy," he said when a newsman asked his opinion of the Workers Front's reply to the charges that the Anti-Somozist Peoples Militias [MILPAS] and the Workers Front are promoting anarchism among the workers.

On the Workers Front's idea that the bourgeoisie and landowners who are plotting against the revolution from inside the state's apparatus must be expelled, Borge reiterated his previous reply that this is idiocy. That is political idiocy. This is a process. How are we going to protect the revolution which has cost so much? Which has cost us so much? How are we going to believe in ourselves? The structures of the revolution are in our hands. Some bourgeoisie are honest and consistent; others are not, he stressed.

In reply to a question as to whether there is a change in policy in view of the trip to the United States by three members of the government junta, Borge said the fact of their trip to the United States does not mean that they are on their knees, since the act of speaking with the Soviet leader, or with Fidel Castro or with the U.S. Government does not make them any less or more revolutionary.

NEW PARTY SECRETARY DESCRIBES FEAR OF SANDINISM

PA070329 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Sep 79 PA

[Speech by Nicaraguan Social Democratic Party Communications Secretary Gladys Miranda at party founding ceremony; place not given--presumably live]

[Excerpts] Nicaraguans, friends, welcome to the Social Democratic Party [PSD] founding ceremony. Welcome to this first meeting of Nicaraguan Social Democrats. We, the women of this country, are fed up with the machismo of our men, who think only about wars and tyrannies. We, the women, will say "enough!" and will begin fighting for peace and democracy. [applause]

Today we are in a Nicaragua full of banners, of "vivas" and of heroes. But revolution, my friends, is not waged with banners. It is not waged with songs or folkloric poems. Revolutions, my friends, are waged with works, with deeds. Revolution, my friends, is not the product of improvisation; it is the product of intelligence. [applause] Revolution, my friends, is the product of intelligence; it is the product of prudence, of good judgment and maturity. Four kids dressed as gunmen do not make a revolution. [applause]

Friends, in 1936 and 1937 Somoza Garcia, the founder of our hemisphere's bloodiest dynasty, used to go out in the streets and on the highways and roads of Nicaragua accompanied by 100 gunmen carrying 100 machineguns. And the people trembled with fear. The people trembled in terror and remained silent. Nobody criticized Somoza. Nobody said this man will turn into a tyrant, this man cannot become president because he killed Sandino. Nobody said this because the people were afraid. Somoza, of ccurse, realized we were afraid. And gradually, 2 years later, in 1939, he made us feel the entire weight of his barbaric military power.

That same fear, Nicaraguans, is floating now over this country. There is fear among our people. And, gentlemen, it is not fear of Somozism--it is fear of Sandinism. [applause] Nicaraguans, we are afraid in a way that inspires fear. In this country one cannot walk a block or go along the highways because of the machineguns and rifles pointing at us. When the United States planted the seed of militarism in this country, it sentenced our peace to death. Now, gentlemen, we are a people flooded with weapons. Our children play with weapons. We live only for war; we cannot live in peace, not even with ourselves. Here one turns on the television set or the radio and hears only words of hatred. Here, gentlemen, we must all change. It is not Nicaragua that will change. Nicaragua is beautiful, it is generous, it is fertile, it is great. It is us, Nicaraguans, who must change. And gentlemen, this change in each of us is what is termed a revolution. [applause]

We must begin thinking and acting like judicious and sensible individuals. Let us put an end to those speeches in which words sound like stones. Let us put an end to threatening speeches. Let us put an end to militaristic poses because, although it is true that people are afraid now, it is also true that when they see their freedom threatened they are capable of sacrificing their own lives in order to obtain their freedom. [applause] But we, social democrats, will not preach violence. We will not respond to the insults and slanders, to the infamies of the writers of NOVEDADES, which is now called BARRICADA. [applause]

Friends, we Nicaraguans love the revolution and it will not be the social democrats who will attack our revolution. The enemies of the revolution are inside the revolution. They are the Nicaraguans who slander, insult and defame on the pages of BARRICADA, just like the Somozists used to do. [applause] Friends, Somoza at least took 2 years to show his claws in 1939. But the [word indistinct] who are now in possession of the weapons have not waited even 2 years. It has only been a few days, yet they have already sent soldiers to take care of us and scare us.

But we will continue to move ahead. Friends, I believe this is enough for the time being. [laughter] We social democrats have much to say, but we will say it later on. For the time being I will only say this: No machinegun can make a social democrat shut up. [applause]

WORKERS FRONT LEADER REPLIES TO FSLN ATTACKS

PA090016 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 1 Oct 79 pp 1, 8 PA

[Text] EL PUEBLO has interviewed Companero Pablo Martinez, general coordinator of union work for the Workers Front [FD], who explains this revolutionary organization's position regarding the statements of members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) Directorate.

Pablo Martinez, a revolutionary with a long history in our people's struggle and recognized for his union work, explained his organization's position with the calmness of a leader:

We totally reject, he said, all statements made against the FO by FSLN leaders. We do not know how they can describe us as extreme leftists. We are working for the unity of workers and the establishment of unions. We are also working to unify positions and to work with the Sandinist Workers Central (CST) and other labor centrals in order to achieve the total unification of the labor movement in a United Workers Central which will solve the workers' problems and will help consolidate, advance and defend the revolution. Is this an action of the extreme left?

I am personally surprised, he added, that leaders of the stature of Tomas Borge, whom I have always known as a just man and a great friend in the past when I was member of the FSLN National Directorate along with Companeros Carlos Fonseca Amador, Silvio Mayorga, Enrique Lorente, Casimiro Sotelo, Julio Buitrago, Jose Benito Escobar, Victor Tirado, Oscar Turcios, Daniel Ortega and others, should today issue such charges against a revolutionary labor organization which firmly struggled against Somozism and for the interests of the popular masses and for this reason suffered the tyranny's repression. Evidence of this is the fact that many companeros were killed by the "beasts" of Somozism.

[Question] Companero Martinez, what is the FO's opinion of the campaign being unleashed by the FSLN against your organization and what is its position in the face of this?

[Answer] This campaign is inconsistent with the principles which the FSLN has been supporting since we have the right to exist and work as an independent organization. Is this a crime? It is an inconsistent campaign because it harms the principles of freedom for which our people struggled for so many years. That is why we vigorously oppose the campaign to discredit us, the subtle persecution we are suffering, the imprisonment of companero leaders and militants and the interference in free unionization.

We have already issued a statement in which, besides explaining our position, we stress that revolutionary forces should be united. The FO is willing to hold talks with the FSLN leadership. We have already tried to do so by asking to meet with Commander Borge, but this was rejected. We will continue to insist on this as the best way of solving a contradictory situation between two revolutionary organizations. The Somozist remnants, the reactionary bourgeoisie and imperialism are the only ones who gain from this situation. Far from being intimidated by this campaign, we will intensify our activities on behalf of the interests and rights of the workers and for the the consolidation and advancement of the revolution until we reach the desired goal of the proletariat: Socialism.

ILLEGAL ARRESTS REPORTED; EXTORTION CHARGED

PA091603 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 3 Oct 79 p 3 PA

[Excerpts] Mrs Rosa Flores Gutierres informed EL PUEBLO that confiscations without due legal process, illegal arrests and other irregularities are taking place in San Lorenzo, Boaco.

Mrs Flores added that during the past few days arrests have been made without fulfilling legal requirements and that in some cases prisoners have been forced to give their captors cattle or money.

UN SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES CASTRO VISIT

FL091156 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The UN Secretariat has officially announced the upcoming visit there by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers. A UN spokesman has told newsmen that Cuban Permanent Representative Raul Roa Kouri has reported this to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN'S VISIT TO KEY WEST REPORTED

FL091831 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Oct 79 FL

[Text] It has been learned in Washington that Harold Brown, North American secretary of defense, has made an inspection trip to the Yankee naval base in Key West, Florida where Carter's government has decided to set up a task force in an operational military unit for the Caribbean. Brown reported that the exercises in that region would begin today [as heard] with the participation of U.S. naval and air units based in Florida.

The North American secretary of defense said that the objective of these exercises is to show the U.S. combat possibilities in the Caribbean, an area which according to him is a sphere of special concern for his country. Observers point out that these maneuvers are directed at heating up the tension in the Caribbean region.

For its part the press refers to the task force Washington decided to set up in Florida. A total of between 60 and 100 officers from all U.S. services will work at this headquarters to draw up strategic and tactical plans for military actions in the Caribbean and Central America.

Evidently this deals with plans for bellicose interference in the region, especially in those countries whose policy is not agreeable to the North American administration. Rear Admiral Thomas Replogle was designated as chief of this task force.

GRANMA SCORES ILLEGAL NAVY PRESENCE IN GUANTANAMO

FL081540 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1407 GMT 8 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Guantanamo's Yankee Base--The U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, sired by the Platt Amendment, is mainly propped up by a process of illegal treaties and agreements. In the still recent struggle against the Batista tyranny, the U.S. Government supplied rockets and bombs, including napalm, to the tyranny's air force from this base. With this "help," indiscriminate and systematic bombardments were carried out over the countryside liberated by the rebel army in the Sierra Maestra in 1957 and 1958.

Since the triumph of the Cuban revolution the United States has vainly directed a whole series of aggressions, crimes, and sabotage against the new Cuba, in addition to turning the usurped territory of the naval base in Guantanamo Bay into a standing force of threats, provocations and violations of the island's sovereignty.

GRANMA goes on to point out [as heard] that in the last 20 years since the revolution's triumph, the Yankee troops stationed in the Guantanamo Naval Base have carried out 12,668 provocations against the liberated territory of Cuba which surrounds it. This figure includes the murder of devoted Cuban border soldiers and humble workers, as well as countless violations of the country's airspace and jurisdictional waters.

History has shown that the United States has no valid argument, other than imperialist superpower and the violation of Cuba's sovereignty, to remain in that occupied area in Guantanamo. The truth is that the United States has no legal, historic or moral right to this piece of Cuban territory, the illegal and forced occupation of which wounds the nation's sovereignty and feelings.

COMMENTARY CITES REGIONAL VICTORIES, U.S. DEFEATS

FL051818 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Oct 79 FL

[Commentary on Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants "Political Information" program]

[Text] In recent years Central America and the Caribbean have experienced changes. An increase in the revolutionary and progressive forces is noticeable in the area's correlation of forces. Following an obscure past of North American military intervention which affected Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, as well as the establishment of sinister regimes at the service of the United States, events taking place in recent years have brought about a new situation in the region.

With the Cuban revolution's victory in 1959 and the crushing defeat of imperialism at Giron Beach, a new historic phase opened up for Central America and the Caribbean which is also evident in the rest of Latin America. The Cuban people's victory over imperialist blackmail and aggression has contributed to intensifying the general crisis of North American imperialism and has totally bankrupted its policy of domination throughout the continent which, until then, had been its backyard.

Cuba's example and its socialist option gave a new perspective to the region's peoples who from then on intensified even more their struggle against Yankee imperialism and for national liberation. In recent years the peoples' revolutionary struggle has evolved and translated into important victories which define today's Central American and Caribbean situation. Very significant are the historic successes attained by the Nicaraguan people who, under the leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, defeated the bloody, genocidal and pro-Yankee Somoza dictatorship after a prolonged struggle. Likewise, it is worthy to mention the revolutionary measures which have generated transformations in the country only possible under the legitimate Government of National Reconstruction that represents the yearnings of Sandino's people.

Other outstanding events are the solidarity of the peoples, governments and personalities of Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela and other nations in the Caribbean which, ignoring imperialism's orders and resolving to face up to its possible reactions, gave aid to the Nicaraguan people in their just struggle. Also very important are the victory of the people of Grenada against the fascist and pro-North American Gairy regime and the courageous steps taken by the progressive government of Maurice Bishop in the effort to create the conditions for the future development of that Antillean country.

At the same time the intensification of the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of El Salvador, Guatemala and Puerto Rico against the regimes imposed on them by the United States and the stepped-up repression against the popular masses in them and other countries in the area are a definite prelude to future transformations. Doubtlessly, today this frightens the North American imperialists who can see the imminent danger of losing their positions in the Latin American area which is why they once more put in play their mighty resources.

The irresponsible adventure undertaken by Washington when it resorted to the comedy of the presence in Cuba of an alleged Soviet combat brigade demonstrated that one of the fundamental objectives pursued by the United States with its ridiculous but dangerous and artificial crisis is to halt this process of reforms in the area. As stated by the daily GRANMA in its 3 October editorial, the United States adopted a number of measures aimed at pressuring or intimidating those Caribbean and Central American countries where the revolution has been victorious, where progressive regimes are in power or in those where their peoples are courageously struggling, spilling their blood and fighting the forces of tyranny, crime and the most shameful exploitation.

Imperialism itself, with its policy of exploitation, intervention, crime and blackmail, has created the causes which have led the peoples to wage a struggle for independence, freedom and social progress, a struggle whose just consequences are inevitable.

NICARAGUAN 'REBUFF' OF U.S. MILITARY MIGHT NOTED

FL061027 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Nicaragua's Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has rebuffed the North American decision to increase its military forces in the Caribbean area. The five junta members reported to national and foreign journalists on their recent trip to the United States. They also denounced the ultraleftist group Movement of Popular Action which, together with pro-Somoza elements, are conducting acts of terrorism and counterrevolutionary campaigns throughout the country.

Referring to the speech made recently by President Carter, Cmdr Daniel Ortega, one of the five junta members, said that in the complexity of North American politics there are aggressive and warmongering forces which seek to dominate [U.S. policy] and from Carter's statements it is obvious that those forces now are in control.

With respect to ongoing counterrevolutionary actions in various parts of the country, the junta member denounced that the so-called Movement of Popular Action had emerged in 1968 when the Sandinist National Liberation Front expelled from its midst several individuals suspected of having informed on martyr Jose Benito Escobar, Julian Roque Cuadra and others.

NICARAGUAN CULTURAL DELEGATION MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

Hart, Cardenal Meeting

FL031833 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart, member of the party Politburo and minister of culture, this morning met with his Nicaraguan counterpart Ernesto Cardenal who has been in Cuba since Monday at the head of a delegation. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Culture in Havana. Haydee Santamaria, member of the party Central Committee and president of the House of the Americas; Roberto Fernandez Retamar, vice president of the latter institution; and Vice Ministers of Culture Rafael Almeida, Antonio Nunez Jimenez, Alfredo Guevara and Julio Garcia Espinosa attended the meeting for the Cuban side.

Cardenal on Cultural Development

FL051857 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Oct 79 FL

[Text] [Nicaraguan Culture Minister] Ernesto Cardenal held a press conference at the Cuban Ministry of Culture during which he said he had come to seek the experiences of a revolution in the field of culture. Moments earlier he granted an interview for this newscast.

[Videotape, unidentified reporter interviewing Cardenal] [Question] Dear televiewers, national television news is pleased to interview poet Ernesto Cardenal, minister of culture of the fraternal Republic of Nicaragua, who has been in Cuba since Monday heading a delegation from that fraternal nation. Comrade Minister, would you please tell us about the plans which your ministry will undertake in your country soon?

[Answer] We have begun implementing our plans and they are quite simple. They are designed simply to make a revolution in culture. What does this mean? It means to take culture to the people, that the people not be left out of cultural activities as they had been up to now in Nicaragua, just as they had been from all other activities of the society. Just as the people now are regaining the land and are becoming masters of their economic and social future, they are now becoming masters of their culture. This means that our ministry is taking to the people the theater, songs, poetry, dances, paintings and national folklore which had been ignored and scorned under Somoza. We also now are satisfying the need of the people to have reading materials, books, playing records and movies. We have established a motion picture institute. We are setting up libraries. We are planning museums. We are beginning to implement a publications plan in a country where books were banned, the books that the Somoza regime considered subversive which meant practically all the books of interest to the Nicaraguan people. For the first time now the people are discovering their cultural identity, appreciating their songs, dances and poetry, and feeling the pride of our Nicaraguan identity. This pride has been given by the revolution and this dignity of being Nicaraguan is owed to the Sandinist front. [end recording]

Delegation Visits Various Sites

FL081707 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Members of the Nicaraguan Culture Ministry delegation who are visiting our country have toured areas of cultural and economic sites of interest in the northwestern part of Havana Province. (Adriana Guillen), in charge of people's cultural centers from that fraternal country, spoke with officials of the Jaruco Culture House and was interested in the characteristics of the center and the development of its activities in the region. She said that without the participation of the masses it is impossible to develop the cultural work of the revolution, and added that Cuba's experiences were enriching. Other Nicaraguan Culture Ministry officials have visited the Valles de Picadura livestock breeding farm where they were briefed on its characteristics and the cultural work carried out by the revolution in peasant communities.

Cardenal Departs for Home

FL081647 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Ernesto Cardenal, Nicaraguan minister of culture, today returned to his country following a visit in response to an invitation from the Cuban Cultura Ministry. The Central American poet was bid farewell by Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture, Vice Ministers Antonio Nunez Jimenez and Alfredo Guevara, and Roberto Fernandez Retamar, vice president of the Casa de las Americas.

LAS TUNAS TEACHERS LEAVE FOR NICARAGUA

FL030227 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0143 GMT 3 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The fifty teachers from Las Tunas who will be providing their internationalist aid to the fraternal Nicaraguan people were bid farewell at a ceremony held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--provincial headquarters. (Eliseo Mendoza), secretary general of the education and science trade union in Las Tunas Province, expressed in the opening of the ceremony the admiration of the 10,000 workers in this sector for those who will represent them on such an honorable mission. He stated that the collective was selected from among hundreds of teachers who expressed their willingness to lend their services in Sandino's heroic homeland. (Felix Osua), first secretary of the Union of Young Communists--UJC--in Las Tunas Province, pointed out the beautiful significance of the solidarity aid which the Las Tunas teachers will be providing in Nicaragua.

HUBER MATOS REPORTEDLY TO BE RELEASED 21 OCTOBER

PA051818 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1756 GMT 5 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 5 Oct (LATIN)--Cuban Commander Huber Matos will be freed on 21 October, Huber Matos, Jr. said during a press conference here today. Matos said he received official reports from the Cuban Government concerning his father's release on that day, possibly along with 137 other Cuban political prisoners.

Commander Matos' relatives, together with relatives of Cuban Father Jose Reyes, informed Huber Matos, Jr. of the Cuban regime's decision to release his father on the 21st, when his 20-year prison sentence ends. "My father's freedom," he said, "is not negotiable. His sentence ends this month and he should be released without any conditions." "I told that to the Cuban community in exile and Father Reyes, who understood it," he said.

Matos also reported that his father had signed a letter in prison flatly opposing any negotiation of his release between exiled Cubans and Castro's regime. Father Reyes, one of the main promoters of the Cuban political prisoners' release, arrived in Costa Rica 2 days ago and met with Matos Jr. and Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo, whom he told of the Cuban Government's decision.

LABOR DISCIPLINE TO BE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STUDY

FL042341 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Oct 79 FL

[Text] The people's government organs will carry out a general study between 18 October and 15 February 1980 on the problems of labor discipline at work places throughout the country. This was announced at a meeting of the People's Government National Assembly labor and social security working committee which will end tomorrow after discussing and reviewing the methodology and time schedule of this study. Francisco Linares, president of the working committee, stated that this work, which is directed by Comrade Blas Roca, president of the People's Government National Assembly, is very important and it should cover the various fields of the economy and services. Linares added that the study of labor discipline problems will require a great effort and that in this effort the people's government working committees at the provincial and municipal levels will have an important role to play. Francisco Linares emphasized that the results of the study will be announced at the People's Government National Assembly first session in 1980.

Roca Chairs Committee Session

FL051804 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roco Calderio, president of the People's Government National Assembly and member of the PCC Politburo, chaired this morning's session of the [National Assembly] labor and social security committee meeting. The committee is meeting to set up a general study of labor discipline problems throughout the country that will begin on 18 October and conclude on 15 February 1980. The study then will be submitted to the first 1980 session of the National Assembly.

Members of the PCC Central Committee, Union of Young Communists, Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], State Committee for Labor and Social Security, State Committee for Statistics, provincial executive committees [presumably of provincial assemblies] and officials from the Department for Servicing Committees [as heard] and deputies assigned in the provinces and Isle of Youth special municipality attended the session.

The methodology and guidelines for work on labor discipline problems were read, improved and approved at this session. As a result of these guidelines for studying workplaces, surveys will be made of the labor union section, management, labor council and people's tribunals. Blas Roca suggested to the committee that it would be good to find out how much attention is being given at workplaces to the preparation of food in the cafetarias and to investigate the management of such services at the workplaces included in the surveys. This situation, Blas Roca said, could result in labor indiscipline and worker absenteeism. The National Assembly president added that full advantage must be taken of a day's work not only in factories, but also in livestock and agricultural production. Roberto Veiga raised a question as to how production is measured. Joaquin Benavides, official of the party Central Committee, also spoke at this session.

COMMENTARY REPORTS EFFECTS OF DISEASE IN SUGARCANE PLANTATIONS

FL100156 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Oct 79 FL

[Raul Sarmiento commentary]

[Text] My commentary today specifically deals with the serious difficulties that exist in sugarcane agriculture for the next harvest, primarily due to the disease known as rust that has affected one of our principal [sugarcane] varieties, Barbados 4362, and which by extending throughout the country has become the most serious and strongest disease that has affected our sugarcane agriculture. This subject was covered by Alfredo Menendez, member of the party Central Committee and chief of its sugar department, at the national sugar harvest propaganda and information seminar held this weekend in Matanzas Province.

The effects of this plague, said Alfredo Menendez, along with other factors such as the late completion of the past sugar harvest, the drought that affected the northern areas of the country in July and August, as well as the low levels of sugarcane weeding and irrigation, along with the unfulfillment of last year's winter [sugarcane planting] plan, have resulted in very negative effects on the availability of sugarcane for grinding, which logically affects the production objectives of the forthcoming harvest.

Elimination of the Barbados 4362 variety is the only measure to fight this disease. To be able to undertake this task of demolishing the thousands of caballerias affected, it is necessary to insure the planting of all the sugarcane on the current winter plan since this will be the sugarcane we are going to grind in 1981.

Fulfillment of the winter sugarcane planting plan at the beginning of the month was reported to be as follows: by 1 October only 44 percent of the plan had been planted. Last year by that date 66 percent had already been planted, 22 percent more than this year, and the plan was not fulfilled. Historically, nearly 40 percent of that plan is planted during the last 3 months of the year. This year we must plan 56 percent. Nationally, the situation is not good. When examining the percentage of fulfillment by provinces, we note that only Villa Clara has done a good job by achieving 79 percent fulfillment. Villa Clara will probably achieve the goal set for the year.

Matanzas, Las Tunas, Granma, Santiago, Havana and Holguin do not present a favorable situation even though they are reporting a national average. In the rest of the country Sancti Spiritus, Camaguey, Cienfuegos and Pinar del Rio are reporting critical situations. In order for the sugarcane agriculture to recover from this serious blow which affects 25 percent of the total sugarcane area, it is essential that the current winter [sugarcane planting] plan be fulfilled or overfulfilled.

The effort that must be made is outstanding. In reality we must undertake nationally a very difficult task. To do this we must enlist our working class which, under the sure guidance of the party, has always made the greatest efforts to fulfill successfully all missions assigned to it. We also have thousands of workers from various sectors who are ready to tackle this problem to insure next year's production of our main industry. We also have thousands of combatants of the Youth Labor Army, thousands of members of the Federation of Cuban Women and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and thousands of students ready to help.

Our people have demonstrated in numerous instances that they are capable of fulfilling the tasks assigned to them, even those requiring great efforts and sacrifices. But there are other factors that must be present to attain this goal. The administrative end of the industry must exercise the most demanding supervision, the most rigorous control of all tasks, of all pledges. Careful attention must be given to the required operation of all material factors needed in this activity. Men and women working in this task must be given everything needed to recover as soon as possible from this serious blow which is affecting the production of our main economic commodity.

BRIEFS

BULGARIAN COMMISSION SESSION ENDS--The 13th session of the Bulgarian-Cuban intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation has ended in Sofia with the signing of a protocol covering the basic lines of cooperation for 1980. The agreement states that Bulgaria will provide equipment and assistance for building complete plants in Cuba, among them a fruit and vegetable preserves plant, a soft drink bottling plant, a red tile plant, and a refrigerator manufacturing installation. Bulgaria will also cooperate with Cuba in building electric cars and freight lifts, machinery, tools, boilers, cranes and air conditioning and refrigerating equipment. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0345 GMT 6 Oct 79 FL]

BRAVO MEETS BULGARIAN CHAIRMAN--Stanko Todorov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, has met with Flavio Bravo, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers. Todorov was briefed on the work at the 13th meeting of the Bulgarian-Cuban Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation currently being held in Sofia. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Oct 79 FL]

DOMINICA

SERAPHIN DISMISSES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

FL091508 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 9 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Dominican Prime Minister Oliver Seraphin has announced the dismissal of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands Atherton Martin and Senator (Rudy Douglas) from his interim government. They were dismissed for possessing communistic ideas. No further details have been (?forthcoming) but a REUTER-CANA report noted that it is known that both Martin and Douglas were socialists and had not always agreed with the government on policy. Senator Douglas is a leader of the leftist Dominican Liberation Movement while Mr Martin is general secretary of the Dominica Farmers Union. Mr Seraphin's decision came on the eve of his departure for New York where he will address the United Nations on Friday.

Reasons for Dismissals

FL092036 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 9 Oct 79 FL

[Excerpt] Dominican Prime Minister Oliver Seraphin has (?stated) that pressure from donor countries was among the reasons for his sudden decision to (?dismiss) Agriculture Minister Atherton Martin and Senator (Rudy Douglas). Announcing the dismissals last night, Mr Seraphin said he had been embarrassed by the communist ideology of the two men and had no other alternative. He said that donors helping Dominica recover from the multimillion dollar damage caused by Hurricane David. [words indistinct] ideological position of Dominica.

Mr Seraphin was appointed head of the interim government following the downfall of June of former Prime Minister Patrick John of the initiative of a committee for national salvation. The committee comprised a wide cross-section of the population but Mr Seraphin said that it was now defunct. Mr Seraphin said that the committee had given him a cabinet of leftists and rightists and he was having difficulty in reconciling the ideologies of the two sides.

GRENADA

FOREIGN MINISTRY SCORES U.S. PLANS FOR CARIBBEAN

FL100253 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0235 GMT 10 Oct 79 FL

[Text] It has been reported in St George's, the capital of Grenada, that the government of that small Caribbean island has condemned North American Military plans for the Caribbean recently announced by President Carter. The same news agency [as heard] states that the Grenadian Government labeled such plans as the greatest threat to peace and stability in the Caribbean and Latin America. The government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop invites the other countries of the region to condemn the U.S. military plans and recalls the history of military acts of aggression against Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Nicaragua.

PRENSA LATINA emphasizes that a lengthy communique of the Grenadian Foreign Ministry adds that the United States is trying to intimidate and threaten Caribbean nations by using its military might against progress.

The communique in the past few hours by the Foreign Ministry of the Caribbean island of Grenada emphasizes that the United States historically has assumed the right to act as if the Caribbean were its backyard but the time has come to stop this. The Grenadian Government communique charges that the United States has intensified its opposition to changes of position since early this year when several reactionary governments were replaced by popular regimes as in Grenada, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Nicaragua. The communique asserts that the United States already has bases with combat capability in the Caribbean and is now seeking to add another base to intimidate and threaten the peoples of this region. The communique concludes with a call to countries of the region to act united to maintain in the Caribbean a zone of peace free of military intimidation and threats on any Caribbean country.

JAMAICA

GLEANER: CARTER ACCEPTS 'STATUS QUO' OF SOVIET TROOPS

FL092340 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Oct 79 p 10 FL

[Unattributed editorial: "Carter Flexes Muscles"]

[Text] President Carter in his broadcast to the American people on Monday, October 1 appeared to have tried to eat his cake and have it by seeking to get Senate ratification for SALT treaty and at the same time win popular esteem for showing strength with the Soviets. For on the one hand he declared that the Soviet troops in Cuba posed no threat to the USA, yet on the other hand he ordered troop movements which could only be justified if the Soviet troops were indeed a threat.

There is, of course, no dispute over the existence of the troops in Cuba. What is at issue between the U.S.A. and the Soviets is over the nature of the troops. Both sides agree that the troops have been in Cuba for quite sometime, but whereas President Carter insists that from 2,000 to 3,000 Soviet troops were combat troops, the Soviets have insisted that the troops were a training unit, training Cuban troops since 1962.

Weeks of meetings between U.S. Secretary of State Vance and the Soviet ambassador to the U.S.A. (who incidentally has not departed from diplomatic behavior by replying to the U.S.A. press which attacked his government) have produced no satisfactory settlement of the issue. Last week Mr Gromyko, the Soviet foreign minister, tried to down-grade the issue in his UN speech though repeating the Soviet earlier denials of the U.S. claims. President Brezhnev has repeated that the troops are a training unit, but has assured Mr Carter that they will not be upgraded and expanded, nor will be used aggressively.

Mr Carter who had insisted that they were combat troops and that he would not accept the "status quo" appeared in his broadcast to be adding just that, as he argued for the SALT II treaty Senate ratification and sensibly called for the cessation of playing politics with nuclear power. But then his decision to set up a military headquarters at Key West, Florida, to send 1,500 additional Marines to Guantanamo Bay and to order warlike manoeuvres within the next two weeks in the Caribbean is more in accord with playing politics, for it is indeed sabre-rattling, if we accept the President's statement that the Soviet troops in Cuba pose no threat to the USA. But it would seem to us that the whole Soviet troops-in-Cuba issue has been used to demonstrate U.S. concern over the increasing Soviet expansion in the area via the Soviet surrogate Cuba. Jamaica, Guyana, Grenada have been on the road to having their traditional parliamentary system subverted, as they move closer to the Cuban model, and Nicaragua at first seemed to be veering towards Cuba after the fall of Somoza. The world-wide attention and influence which Cuba seemed to be getting from the non-aligned conference was also a cause for concern since it seemed to strengthen the Soviet penetration in the USA's backyard.

The Soviet combat troops issue was therefore convenient to raise during the non-aligned meeting to seek to embarrass Castro, as it showed his "alignment" with the Soviet Union; and as the issue blew up, it gave the excuse for the U.S. to reassure its allies inside and outside the region that it was prepared to repel the Soviet threat militarily economically.

The fact that Carter and his colleagues raised the issue only with the Soviets has underlined the harsh reality that Cuba, to both U.S.A. and USSR, is no longer sovereign. In fact it was only after Gromyko's UN statement that Castro called eight U.S. reporters to a press conference in Havana to repeat Gromyko's denial and to call Carter a liar. He pointedly refused to allow the reporters to see the "training unit" for themselves. His attitude was turbulent. But we can understand his frustration and anger. For it is humiliating that as leader of the non-aligned, both his friends in the USSR and his "enemies" the USA imperialists, should have demonstrated so soon after his annointment as non-aligned leader, that in fact decisions concerning his country are taken by them, and not by him and his government. It is the price for being mortgaged to a super-power. And the lesson should be abundantly clear to us in Jamaica.

Truly independent nations in the region cannot be happy at the prospect of military confrontation between the super-powers in the region. We would propose therefore that the U.S.A. take the matter urgently to the Organization of American States, for it is there that the question of hemispheric defence should be raised. Unilateral decisions--even if they are to benefit us--smack too much of the grand imperialist design, and too little of the pattern of international co-operation.

ESTRADA CONCERNED ABOUT ANTI-CUBA INCIDENTS

FL092103 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 9 Oct 79 FL

[Excerpt] The Cuban ambassador to Jamaica, Mr Ulises Estrada, this afternoon called at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to express his concern at the continuation of incidents directed against him and his embassy. In the absence of Foreign Affairs Minister P.J. Patterson, the Cuban ambssador was received at the ministry by the Minister of State Mr Jack Stephenson, Parliamentary Secretary Derrick Heaven, the permanent secretaries and the director of protocol.

PNP 'PLOT' AGAINST OPPOSITION JLP REPORTED

FL051458 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 5 Oct 79 FL

[Excerpt] JLP [leader] Pernell Charles says he will treat with contempt a call by the PNP to hand over to the commissioner of police and the director of public prosecutions information concerning an alleged plot regarding PNP members. According to Mr Charles, he's been informed that the PNP was to hire gunmen to shoot up PNP political meetings then blame it on the JLP. But, responding to PNP's call for disclosure [words indistinct] today, Mr Charles said he'll be making certain revelations regarding (?PNP plot) at a JLP meeting in Kingston on Saturday night.